

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/673,194

Amendment dated November 14, 2003

Reply to OA of August 14, 2003

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A water-based pigment dispersion in which a pigment is dispersed with a water soluble or self-emulsifying thermoplastic resin containing carboxylic group, characterized in that the ratio of the pigment to the thermoplastic resin containing the carboxylic group (pigment/thermoplastic resin containing carboxylic group (weight ratio of effective solid matter)) is 10/10 to 10/1,

the thermoplastic resin containing the carboxylic group is cross-linked with a cross-linking agent while maintaining the state of dispersion after the pigment is dispersed with the thermoplastic resin, and

the ratio of the cross-linking agent to the thermoplastic resin containing the carboxylic group (cross-linking agent/thermoplastic resin containing carboxylic group (weight ratio of effective solid matter)) is 1/100 to 50/100.

2. (Previously Presented): The water-based pigment dispersion of Claim 1, wherein the water soluble or self-emulsifying thermoplastic resin containing carboxylic group is an acrylic resin or a polyurethane, and the thermoplastic resin has number average molecule weight of 2000 to 20000 and acid value of 30 to 300.

3. (Original): The water-based pigment dispersion of Claim 1, wherein the cross-linking agent is an aqueous polymer of which reaction point for cross-linking is carboxylic group.

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4 - 8. (Canceled).

9. (Original): A water-based ink containing the water-based pigment dispersion of Claim 1.